

## **CLINICAL TRIALS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SEVERE WNV INFECTIONS**

There is a newly available clinical trial to evaluate an investigational therapy for patients with serious WNV infection, especially those with symptomatic involvement of the central nervous system. The study is sponsored by the NIH and is being conducted by the Collaborative Antiviral Study Group centered at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The clinical trial will evaluate passive immunotherapy using an intravenous immunoglobulin preparation containing significant titers of anti-WNV antibody, compared with placebo (standard IVIG or normal saline). Individuals potentially eligible for this clinical trial include **patients hospitalized with WNV encephalitis and/or myelitis** or **hospitalized patients at high risk for progression to serious CNS disease** (including subjects over 40 years of age and immunocompromised patients). The study is **not** designed to enroll outpatients or subjects with less severe manifestations such as West Nile fever.

This clinical trial will be available in the near future at 2 Arizona hospitals.

***To enroll patients in the trial please contact your Infection Control Practitioner for further information or call (602) 747-7111.***